

# Rinconada Bikol language

**Rinconada Bikol** or simply **Rinconada**, spoken in the province of Camarines Sur, Philippines, is one of several languages that compose the Inland Bikol (or Southern Bikol) group of the Bikol macrolanguage. It belongs to the Austronesian language family that also includes most Philippine languages, the Formosan languages of Taiwanese aborigines, Malay (Indonesian and Bahasa Malaysia), the Polynesian languages and Malagasy.

Rinconada is surrounded and shared common features with other Bikol languages. It is bordered by Coastal Bikol to the north, Buhinon to the east, and West Miraya language immediately to the south. The closest relatives to this language outside the Bikol region are Aklanon, Waray-Waray, and to a lesser extent, Tagalog, especially the variants used in Batangas and Marinduque.

Rinconada Bikol is the language adopted by the indigenous population of Agta/Aeta (the Negrito) in the surrounding mountainous areas of Mount Iriga (old name is Mount Asog). The Austronesian people that have migrated to the foot of Mount Asog from the lowland Nabua introduced the language to Negritos when they began conducting trade and commerce, thus replacing the native language of the latter. The original language of Negritos is *Inagta* also known to linguists as Mount Iriga Agta, an extinct or nearly extinct language. Inagta is said to have 86% intelligibility with Rinconada Bikol but with lexical similarity of 76%.<sup>[3]</sup> Most Negritos or commonly called as Agta or Aeta (*Iod* for camaraderie) today are fluent in Rinconada Bikol though with a different variation.

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Rinconada Bikol	
<span><i>Rinconada</i></span>	
Pronunciation	<span><span>/<span><span>r</span><span>ɪ</span><span>n</span><span>ˈ</span><span>k</span><span>o</span><span>n</span><span>ɑː</span><span>ˌ</span><span>d</span><span>ɑː</span><span>b</span><span>iː</span><span>k</span><span>o</span><span>l</span></span>/</span></span>
Native <span> </span> to	Philippines
Region	Bicol
<div>Native speakers</div>	230,000 <span> </span> (2000 census) <sup>[1]</sup>
<div><span>Language family</span></div>	<div>Austronesian <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li> Malayo-Polynesian<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Philippine<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Central Philippine<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Bikol languages<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Inland Bikol<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Rinconada Bikol</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></div>
Dialects	Sinabukid <p>Sinaranəw</p>
Writing system	Latin (Rinconada Bikol alphabet); Baybayin (historical)
Official status	
<div>Official language<span> </span>in</div>	Regional language in the Philippines
Regulated <span> </span> by	Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino
Language codes	
<span>ISO 639-3</span>	bto
Glottolog	irig1242 <span> </span> (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/irig1242) <sup>[2]</sup>
<span></span> <div>Geographic extent of Rinconada based on Ethnologue</div>	

## Name

The name "Rinconada" is derived from the Rinconada District in Camarines Sur where the language originated, developed and is largely spoken. However, the precise origins of how the term "Rinconada" was assigned to the area are still unclear. Popular wisdom ascribes the name to have come from the Spanish *arrinconada*, "cornered", from the root *rincón* that means "corner or small district". Rinconada might have been given by the Spaniards to the then-newly explored

and established colony in the southeastern corner of Luzon Island; natives formerly called the area *Sumagang* (Sumagan), meaning "far east".

Adding credence to the theory of a Spanish origin are the localities of La Rinconada in Spain and La Rinconada in Chile, which was also a former Spanish colony.

## Dialects

The language is divided into two main dialects and subdivided into six variants:

### Sinabukid (highland dialect)

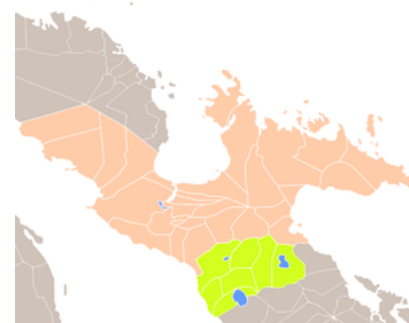
(Strong accent, flat intonation only, and with /ə/)

- Agta variant
- Iriga variant (de facto standard)

### Sinaranəw (lakeside dialect)

(Soft accent with different types of intonation, and without /ə/)

- Nabua – Balatan variant
- Baao variant
- Bula – Pili variant
- Bato variant



5th congressional district of Camarines Sur

## Dialectal Variation

Iriga variant (Standard) Highland dialect	Agta variant Highland dialect	Nabua – Balatan variant Lakeside dialect	Bato variant Lakeside dialect	Baao variant Lakeside dialect	Bula – Pili variant Lakeside dialect	Coastal Bikol translation	Filipino/Tagalog translation	English translation
Namāmayəw iyā sadtō gilid ku sālog ku nabaretāan niyā na inarādo nangad ku igin niyā su ragā, dāwā ədā pa tubig adtoŋ omā nirā.	Namāmayəw iyā sadtō iris ku sālog ku nabaretāan niyā na inarādo nangad ku igin niyā su ragā, dāwā ədā pa <b>katbag</b> adtoŋ omā nirā.	<b>Namāmayow</b> 'yā sadtō gilid ku sālog ku nabaretāan niyā na inarādo nangad ku igin niyā su ragā, dāwā <b>udā</b> pa tubig adtoŋ omā nirā.	<b>Namāmayow</b> iyā sadtō gilid ku sālog ku nabaretāan niyā na inarādo nangad ku <b>akos</b> niyā su ragā, dāwā <b>udā</b> pa tubig adtoŋ omā nirā.	<b>Namāmayow</b> siyā sadtō gilid ku sālog ku nabaretāan niyā na inarādo <b>jaday</b> ku igin niyā su ragā, dāwā <b>udā</b> pa <b>kin</b> tubig adtoŋ omā <b>nindā</b> .	<b>Namāmayow</b> siyā sadtō gilid ku sālog ku nabaretāan niyā na inarādo <b>dayday</b> ku igin niyā su ragā, dāwā <b>udā</b> pa tubig adtoŋ omā <b>nindā</b> .	Namamahaw siya duman sa gilid nin salog kan mabaretāan niyang inarado giraray kan aki niya si daga, dawa dae pa nin tubig idtong oma ninda.	Nag-aalmusal siya sa may tabi ng ilog nang mabalitaan niyang inararong muli ng kaniyang anak ang lupa, kahit na wala pang tubig ang kaniyang bukirin.	He was eating breakfast by the river when he heard the news about his child plowed the land again, even though the rice field has no water yet.

## Features and geographic distribution

- The Nabua-Balatan variant features high pitch intonation. Though it is the direct descendant of Rinconada Bikol but it lost some features of the original spoken language. The speakers can be found in the entire municipalities of Nabua and Balatan.
- Iriga variant on the other hand has the most speakers. The speakers are concentrated in the district's center - Iriga City, in some of the important barangays of Buhi (West and East Sta. Justina and De Los Angeles), and the urban barangay of Matacon located in Polangui, Albay. The Iriga variant has a flat intonation and is spoken rapidly.
- The Bato variant, on the other hand, has a distinctive mellow intonation. It is said that regardless of one's mood, the Bato speaker always sounds sleepy, as if they are chanting. The Bato variant is primarily being spoken in Bato, Camarines Sur and also spoken in Agos, Polangui, Albay.
- The Agta variant is the smallest in the group. The speakers are exclusively the indigenous population of Agta/Aeta, the aboriginal people of different tribes surrounding Mount Iriga and Buhi lake. Like Iriga, the Agta variant also has a flat intonation but they speak the language with distinct form of pronunciation which can be traced from the group's extinct language.
- The variants of Baao and Bula-Pili are considered twins. They have the same accent and only slight differences in vocabulary. Of the two variants, Baao often uses rising intonation, while Bula-Pili is moderately flat but both are using high pitch when reasoning. The latter variant is used entirely in Bula and in the southern half of the provincial capital town of Pili. It also has significant speakers in Ocampo, Cam. Sur and Minalabac, Cam. Sur. These two variants have borrowed some vocabularies of Coastal Bikol but at the same time, Bikol-Partido (a dialect of Coastal Bikol) can be heard with borrowed vocabularies from these two variants.

List of phrases and expressions that are unique to each variant:

Baao variant: "**Gaorag na!**"

Nabua – Balatan variant: "**Labinā kan.**"

Agta variant: "**Mayaŋ na ŋod.**"

Bato variant: "**Ay tarā?**"

Bula – Pili variant: "**Paŋōrag..**"

Iriga variant: "**Labinā man nā!**"

## Short imperatives

Like other Visayan and Bikol languages, Rinconada Bikol has a short form for the imperative.

e.g.:

The phrase "iyəwən mo" (grill it) is often shortened to "iyəwā" and the command phrase "punāsan mo a salmiḡ" (wipe the mirror) can be shortened to "punāsa a salmiḡ".

A special form is used when talking to elderly people in a polite manner. Instead of putting the letters "ā/a" after the root word of the verb, it has to be replaced by the letters "e/ē" if the statement will be politely delivered. The letter "e" or "ē" stands for "tābī" which means "please" in English, or "po" in Tagalog.

Example 1:

"iyəw" is a root word that means "grill".

"iyəwən" means "grill it".

"iyəwən mo" roughly means "you, grill it".

"iyəwā" is the shortcut of the command "iyəwən mo".

"iyəwē" is the shortened polite form for "iyəwən mo tābī" (grill it please).

Example 2:

"punas" is a root word that means "wipe".

"punasan" means "wipe it".

"punasan mo" roughly means "you, wipe it".

"punāsa" is the shortcut of the command "punāsan mo".

"punāse" is the shortened polite form for "punāsan mo tābī" (wipe it please).

Example 3:

"imo" is a root word that means "prepare".

"imōḡon" means "prepare it".

"imōḡon mo" means "you, prepare it".

"imōḡa" is the shortcut of the command "imōḡon mo".

"imōḡe" is the shortened polite form for "imōḡon mo tābī" (please prepare it).

## Pronouns

	Absolutive	Ergative	Oblique
1st person singular	akō	ko	kanakə, saakə
2nd person singular	ikā, ka	mo	kanimō, saimō
3rd person singular	iyā, siyā	niyā	kaniyā, saiyā
1st person plural inclusive	kitā	ta	kanatə, saatə
1st person plural exclusive	kamī	namə, amə	kanamə, saamə
2nd person plural	kamō	ninyō	kaninyō
3rd person plural	sirā, sindā	nirā, ninda	kanirā, saindā, kandā

## Lexicon

Sentences:

**What is your name?** - Onō a ḡaran mo?

**My name is Joseph.** - Usē a ḡaran ko. (*Usē* is a rinconadized name of Spanish *Jose*)

**Where do you come from?** - Tagasārī ikā?

**I'm from Pili, Camarines Sur.** - Taga-Pili, Camarines Sur akō.

**I love you so much.** - Payabā ta ikā sa igō./Payabā ko ikā sa igō.

**Do you like me?** - Bəət mo 'kō?

**What are you doing?** - Onō a ginigībo mo?

**I will go home.** - Migpaulī na 'kō.

**John is my brother** - Dod ko si Uwan. (*Uwan* is a rinconadized name of Spanish *Juan*)

**Do you want to eat breakfast?** - Bəət mo na'ḡ mamaḡəw?

**I'm already eating** - Nagkākaən na 'kō.

**What time is it?/May I know what time is it?** - Onōḡ ḡras na?/Onōḡ ḡras na tābī?

**I will go out** - Migluwas akō.

**I can't sleep.** - Dirī akō makatorog.

**Are you afraid of the dark?** - Nakatātakot ikā sa maḡitḡit?

**He said he will pick me up/fetch me.** - Sabi niyā susuḡkātəḡ konō 'kō.

**How old are you?** - Gaamnō na ikā (naykā) kaguraḡ?

**When will you be back?** - Kūnu ikā migbalik?

Family titles:

**Amā** - Father

**Inā** - Mother

**Itay** - Dad

**Inay** - Mom

**Mānoy** - older brother

**Mānay** - older sister

**Tāta** - Uncle

**Nāna** - Auntie

Basic question words:

**Onō** - What

**Isay** - Who

**Kūnu** - When

**Dātā** - Why

**Sārī** - Where

**Paōno** - How

**Arī** - Which

**Pirā** - How many

**Mamirā** - How much

**Gaamō** - (*Indefinite question*) Used to describe the degree or extent to which something is covered such as period or age, vastness or immensity and etc.

## Greetings

General Greetings:

Maray na aldəw - Good day (from sunrise to sunset)

Maray na gab-ī - Good evening (from sunset to sunrise)

- The said greetings can be shorten to "Aldəw" and "Gab-ī" as they are like the two-syllable words "Bonjour" and "Bonsoir" of the French language.

Specific Greetings:

Maray na ramrag - Good morning (from 6AM to 11AM)

Maray na mudtū - Good noon (from 11AM to 1PM)

Maray na apon - Good afternoon (from 1PM to 6PM)

Maray na gab-ī - Good evening (from 6PM to 11PM)

Maray na lawəd - Good midnight (from 11PM to 1AM)

Maray na mararamrægən - Good dawn (from 1AM to 6AM)

People of Rinconada classify dim or dark hours as nighttime and light hours as daytime. As such, even with the introduction of Modern Standard Time, they consider the hours of 12 midnight until 6 o'clock in the morning as nighttime. Therefore, the general greeting from 6AM to 6PM is "Maray na aldəw", and "Maray na gab-ī" for the hours that start from 6PM to 6AM.

e.g. Maray na mudtū tabī kaninyō nāmin!

Occasional Greetings:

Maməyay Pagkaməndag! - Happy Birthday.

Maməyay Bāgoj Taon! - Happy New Year.

Maməyay Anibersāryo! - Happy Anniversary.

## Uniqueness and distinction

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Rinconada Bikol vocabulary is rich in words with short or unstressed letter /i/ sound. In fact, most root words with letter /i/ are unstressed. However, not all words with /i/ should be read and pronounced as such since there are several words that have stressed /i/, especially loanwords, e.g. sili (chili). Native words (root word) with stressed /i/ are seldom or rare.

The language retains the proto-Philippine schwa vowel /ə/ that have disappeared in most Philippine languages like Cebuano, Tagalog and even the neighboring Coastal Bikol language. In Nabua, Camarines Sur (where the language is believed to be originated), the vowel also disappeared through the normal development and evolution. However, it was preserved by those who moved and migrated to the highland part of Rinconada around Mount Iriga (formerly Mount Asog) due to severe flooding on lowland, particularly in Nabua and Bula. Thus, preserving the vowel and has survived until this day in Sinabukid dialect.

People who are new to the highland accent may find the Sinabukid dialect sounds like Ilokano, Pangasinense, or Karay-a of Antique province. The vowel can also be heard from the population in towns and cities speaking the Albay Bikol group of languages. The native word for this vowel in Rinconada is "gəpə", and this has divided the language into two dialects – Sinabukid or Highland (with /ə/) and Sinaranəw or Lakeside (without /ə/).

Aside from the vowel /ə/, the other interesting thing in Rinconada language is the occurrence of an extra consonant phoneme /ɣ/. This consonant bears the sound of mixed letters "h, y and "w". The neighboring language of Buhinon also uses this sound - a clear evidence of close ties between the two languages.<sup>[4]</sup> Unfortunately, this phoneme neither has a corresponding letter in Philippine alphabet nor an equivalent character on Philippine standard keyboard. Thus, Rinconada Bikol speakers have no option but to use "h" as an alternative letter. However, in the spoken Sinaranəw dialect, the consonant /ɣ/ and the vowel /ə/ are often replaced by the letters "w" and "o" respectively.

Examples of letter ⟨ɣ⟩

1. Mimaɣəw – will eat breakfast. (Mudtū na, mimaɣəw pa sanā ikā?)

2. Baɣəw – cold cooked rice. (Naɣagnəw na man na kənən na adī, malākabaɣəw!)

3. Taɣəp – a process of separating rice from its outside layer after milling. "Tahip" in Filipino/Tagalog. (A pagtaɣəp, əsad na gīboj dirī dəpat pinagdədəlagan.)

4. Daɣun – plant leaf. (Kadakəl ka daɣun ka tanəm ni Tāta Isko.)

5. Taɣob – cover, protect, or conceal. (Pakarāyən mo a pagkātaɣob ka bobon ta maujkan ikā sīton!)

- The special consonant phoneme /ɣ/ can easily be distinguished from the sound of letters "h,w and y" if it is placed before the vowel phoneme /ə/. It can be compared to the letter "j" of the Spanish word "Dios Mamajes".

## Pronunciation of letters ⟨e⟩ and ⟨ē⟩

The letter ⟨e⟩ in Rinconada is not the typical pronunciation of the vowel /e/ in other languages - such as the word *beg* and *bell* in English language, or the word *metung* in Kapampangan that means "one" - which sounds [ɛ] in IPA (open- or low-mid front unrounded vowel). The letter ⟨e⟩ in Rinconada is pronounced similar to the letter-sequence ⟨ee⟩ in English, or the letter ⟨i⟩ of most languages, but mouth is more open and tongue is a bit relaxed. In IPA it is [e], a close- or high-mid front unrounded vowel. So its pronunciation lies in-between *lead*'s [i] sound and *led*'s [ɛ].

The difference between the letters ⟨e⟩ and ⟨ē⟩ is that the latter pronounced longer or prolonged.

Example: *mutēte* (IPA: mute : te) - chide, scold.

## Rules for letter [ j ]

Unlike other letters in Rinconada native alphabet, letter /j/ is always accompanied by letter /d/ if it is in the middle of a word. Otherwise, single /j/ is to be placed. Moreover, it's the only non-gliding consonant that cannot be found at the end of a word in any native Rinconada vocabulary.

Some words in native Rinconada and rinconadized words of foreign origin with letter /j/:

jamantē - *diamond* (from Spanish 'diamante').

jāday - *again, always*.

jāryo - *newspaper* (from Spanish 'diario').

jōlen - *marble* (toy).

pastidjō - *nuisance* (from Spanish 'fastidio')

idjəw - *a large and non venomous snake*.

oodjon - *\*no counterpart in English and Filipino (nearest meaning: 'jealous' or 'envious')*.

sudjā - *prompted, investigated, an action for questioning*.

kadjapā - *a thorny plant abundant in Bicol region, 'kulitis' in Tagalog (scientific name: Amaranthus Spinousus)*.

padjak - *a bicycle converted into tricycle powered by a human force (mode of transportation known in Metro Manila as 'kuliglig')*.

sodjaɲ - *a sharp piece of wood, metal or bamboo that gets in and stuck to the flesh accidentally*.

lokadjō - *a word used to address a dislike person being discussed in a conversation. It is a word included in Bicol Angry Speech Register*.

paɲadjī - *prayer*.

## The consonant [h]

Through language evolution, Rinconada Bikol almost lost the phoneme /h/, hence, rare. It is often absent in most Rinconada words that are usually present in other Philippine languages.

There is no real /h/ sound in Rinconada. It is either silent or glided that sounds like a long tonal vowel, or vowel lengthening. The letter /h/ is omitted since it is silent, on the other hand, it is glided when in between vowels. The Tagalog words such as *hangin*, *higop* and *hanggan* are almost the same with Rinconada words but letter [h] is eliminated since it is not pronounced. The corresponding equivalent is *aɲin*, *igop* and *anggan*. Same with other Bikol words like *harani*, *harayo*, and *habo* which are *arāni*, *arayō*, and *abə* in Rinconada. While the glided /h/ sound can be found when it is in between the same vowels like in *baha*, *saha*, *kohol*, and *mohon*.

The disappearance of phoneme [h] is an occurrence comparable (but not the same degree) to that of Kapampangan language. Nevertheless, Rinconada Bikol speakers can pronounce it with clarity and emphasis whenever they are speaking other languages where it is present.

## Vocabulary

For centuries under Spanish rules, Rinconada has adopted many words from Spanish language. There is a considerable number of Latin loans (sometimes obscured by being subject to Rinconada phonology and grammar for centuries), for example: *estar* ("address or dwelling place", from *estar* that means "stay"), *soltēro* ("single" but only applicable to male, from *soltero*), *γūben* ("young" from *joven*), *ilyābe* ("key", from *llave*).

Older generations tend to use Spanish loanwords more often but younger generations tend to use Tagalog words and rinconadized words from English language especially the modern terminologies with no counterpart in native Rinconada Bikol vocabulary.

Example:

***Bawas-bawāsan mo man ṅanī a paḡkātiṅ mo lalō na kin arāni na a eksam.*** (Limit your habit of escaping class sessions especially when examination is approaching near).

The Tagalog word "bawas-bawāsan" is "inā-ināan" in Rinconada and the word "lalō" is used in favor of the native word "orog". The word "kātiṅ" and "eksam" are rinconadized words of the English "cutting" (cutting classes or leaving the room during school hours with no permission), and "exam" (examination) respectively. However, the native word for cutting classes is "ləəm".

## Standard Rinconada Bikol

There is no official or *de jure* standard dialect of this language, though the Iriga dialect is used as the *de facto* standard for the following reasons:

1. It retains the proto-Austronesian schwa vowel /ə/ that helps eliminate homographs (words that are spelled the same way but have different pronunciations and meanings).
2. The consonant phoneme /ɣ/ is evident and pronounced more clearly.
3. It has a neutralized and flat intonation which serves to moderate between variants.
4. It has no continuum accent or fusion of variants in between boundaries.  
*One example of continuum accent can be heard in barangays bordering Bula and Nabua which the speakers have mixed accents of Bula-Pili variant and Nabua-Balatan variant. Same thing can be heard in the boundaries of Baao and Nabua.*
5. Iriga City is the center of learning, trade and commerce in Rinconada.
6. It has fewer loan words and is less influenced by neighboring languages than any other variant except Agta.



An election campaign sticker in Rinconada Bikol written in simplified alphabet. (Note the use of umlaut (ü) instead of the schwa vowel (ə) to aid the sinaranəw speakers in reading the message.)

7. It has been used for decades to represent Rinconada as a whole at the local and national level.
8. It has the most number of speakers inside and outside the Rinconada area.
9. There's no or little variation in accent among speakers. Whether a person resides in the northeasternmost part of Iriga bordering Bikol-Partido speakers or in the southernmost part of Matacon, Polangui bordering West Miraya speakers or in East Sta. Justina, Buhi bordering Buhinon speakers, all use the same accent with centralized intonation.

- Even with the usage of Iriga variant (highland dialect) as the Rinconada standard (both in spelling and pronunciation), all other variants remain official in their respective municipalities. The standard spelling must be observed in all written forms but can be pronounced differently depending on the accent of the speakers.

e.g. "lawəd" (midnight) can be pronounced as "lawod, lawəd or lawud" by speakers but MUST be written officially as "lawəd" across variants.

The language is commonly called as Rinconada but officially called as Rinconada Bikol (de jure) and not Iriga Bikol, Irigueño, Baaño or Bikol Nabua.

## Angry speech register

The angry register is unique to Bicol languages as it cannot be found in other Austronesian languages inside and outside the Philippines. It is generally used only among same-age speakers or by older speakers to younger listeners, as usage by younger speakers in addressing their elders would constitute great disrespect. On occasion, the angry register is used in sarcasm or humor, but the majority of its usage is in anger.<sup>[5]</sup>

Rinconada Bikol has contributed much to this unique feature of spoken languages of Bicolanos.

Examples:

	Normal Register	Angry Register Sinabukid pronunciation	Angry Register Sinaranəw pronunciation
<b>eye</b>	matā	malsək	malsok
<b>clothing</b>	badō	lamakdō	lamakdō
<b>eat</b>	kaən	ablō / gətək	ablō / gotok
<b>mouth</b>	ŋarjā	ŋurāpak	ŋurāpak
<b>sleep</b>	torog	tusmag	tusmag
<b>drink</b>	inom	til-ab / lablab	til-ab / lablab
<b>child</b>	igin	wagê	wagû
<b>chicken</b>	manok	soltok / galtok	soltok / galtok
<b>dog</b>	ayam	damāyê	daŋab, damāyô
<b>throw</b>	baribad	barambaŋ	barambaŋ
<b>mountain</b>	bukid	luskid	luskid
<b>run</b>	dalagan	kurībaw	kurībaw
<b>water</b>	tubig	kal-eg	kal-eg
<b>rain</b>	uran	dunag	dunag
<b>rice</b>	bəgas	lasgas	lasgas
<b>hungry</b>	aləp	gəsləp / gəlsək	guslup / gulsuk
<b>woman</b>	babayī	babaknit / siknit	babaknit / siknit
<b>ear</b>	taliŋā	taliŋəŋəg	taliŋogŋog
<b>old</b>	guraŋ	gusnab / gusgus	gusnab / gusgus

## Sainigin

Sainigin is a group of selected words for babies and newly born. It is being used by parents to communicate with their babies easily and to train them how to talk, hence, an introductory language. It is often described as language for babies and commonly called as "sainigin" or "baby talk". Words are limited to two syllables and features basic command. Several letters are absent such as "r, g, s, j, and h". Sainigin literally means "talking or acting like a baby".

Normal words	Sainigin words	English equivalent
inom	māmam	drink
kaən	pāpā	eat
əla	lālā	sit
atī	āā	dirty
ədê	dōdō	bowel
bādō	dādō	cloth
turog	nānok	sleep
wāwā	kakā	spit it out
tabid/tyī	wīwī	urinate
ədā na	nāna	no more

erak	wāwa	pity
------	------	------

## Phonology

### Diphthong (sayəy)

Rinconada Bikol has several diphthongs or gliding vowel.

Rinconada Bikol diphthongs

[jə]	yamən	'play'	[aw]	balaw	'fermented shrimp or krill'
[je]	babayē	'woman/female'	[w]	sigew	'spine'
[ji]	tayī	'stitch'	[iw]	isiw	'chick'
[jo]	payō	'head'	[ow]	aldow (sinaranəw dialect)	'sun'
[ju]	tayū	'nice/pretty'	[uw]	taluw (sinaranəw dialect)	'scared'
[jə]	yəkyək	'armpit'	[əw]	sabəw	'soup'
-					
[wa]	iwas	'wide, spacious'	[ɣa]	labāyan	'laundry'
[we]	suwē	'upside down'	[ɣe]	pondoyē	'stop it please'
[wi]	lāwig	'broad'	[ɣi]	lāyī	'race, ethnicity'
[wɔ]	tawō	'human/person'	[ɣo]	kaɣon	'box'
[wu]	rawut (sinaranəw dialect)	'locked'	[ɣu]	dayun	'leaf'
[wə]	pāwət	'stressful'	[ɣə]	bayəw	'cold cooked rice'
-					
[aj]	maray	'good'	[ɔj]	kawoy (sinaranəw dialect)	'wood/tree'
[ɔ]	baluy (sinaranəw dialect)	'house'	[ɛɪ]	sabləy	'hang'

### Diacritics (kul-it)

Rinconada uses a variation of Latin alphabet modeled on the Tagalog alphabet. But unlike the modern Tagalog - Filipino, Rinconada retains and uses diacritics ('kul-it' in Rinconada Bikol, and 'kudlit' in Tagalog). This is to highlight the meaning of the words and to differentiate words with different meanings but the same spelling. In return, the diacritics provide Rinconada Bikol with a unique orthography among Philippine languages. Diacritics for this language are limited to the macron and circumflex which is unlike other languages, for example Vietnamese that has several. However, due to technical difficulties and a scarcity of resources, diacritics are sometimes not available. Thus, two Rinconada alphabets were created to meet the needs of the speakers: the NATIVE and the SIMPLIFIED. Both can be used at the same time depending on the situation, purpose and availability of resources.

### Glottal stop (rəgsad)

The Rinconada name for the letter which represents the glottal stop is "rəgsad". This can only be found in the native form of alphabet, and it is limited to final vowels or vowels at the end of a word. Rəgsad is represented by the circumflex ( ^ ).

For examples of the glottal stop, consider the Rinconada words salā (wrong) and turô (drop of water/fluid), often simply sala and turo in the simplified alphabet and in Filipino and English orthographies.

- With rəgsad and kul-it, the translation of the phrase **I love you** in Rinconada is *Payabâ ko ikâ* ("love me you" in word-for-word translation).

### Alphabet

Rinconada Bikol was historically written in a form of Abugida writing system called Baybayin in Tagalog and Kul-itan in Rinconada.

#### Native

The Rinconada Native alphabet has 6 short vowels, 6 long vowels, and 17 consonants, a total of 29 letters representing all phonemes in Rinconada Bikol. A long or stressed vowel is written with a macron (a diacritic placed above a vowel). It also includes the velar nasal special character /ŋ/ that represents "NG". Native alphabet contains phonemes that are native to Rinconada, thus considering it as the standard Rinconada Bikol alphabet.

Majuscule Forms (also called uppercase or capital letters)																												
A	Ā	B	K	D	E	Ē	ə	ē	G	H	ɣ	I	Ī	J	L	M	N	ŋ	O	Ō	P	R	S	T	U	Ū	W	Y
Minuscule Forms (also called lowercase or small letters)																												
a	ā	b	k	d	e	ē	ə	ē	g	h	ɣ	i	ī	j	l	m	n	ŋ	o	ō	p	r	s	t	u	ū	w	y

Example of a Filipino proverb written in the Rinconada native alphabet:

"A dirî tattaŋ maglîlî sa pinangalanan, dirî makaaābot sa pig-iyānan." (Tagalog: *Ang hindi marunong lumingon sa pinanggalingan ay hindi makararating sa paroroonan*)

Letter	Rinconada	English translation
A	aləp	hungry
Ā	ārak	to flaunt
B	bādō	dress/cloth
K	kamət	hand
D	dəlag	escape
E	erak	pity
Ē	kalē	canal
ə	əŋət	angry
ə̄	ə̄lā	sit
G	gab-ī	night
H	sahā	offshoot
Ÿ	baŸog	feeds
I	ikā	you (singular)
Ī	īkaw	earring
J	tadjok	hit by a sharp pointed tool or thing
L	lətəw	floating
M	matā	eye
N	nəknək	small mosquitoes
ŋ	ŋipən	tooth
O	orəŋ	nose
Ō	ōmol; sōdō	a person who is not funny anymore; remote area or place
P	parəy	rice (unmilled)
R	rayō	far
S	saləg	floor
T	tagbā	a way of harvesting with a use of bolo or knife
U	uran	rain
Ū	ūri	late
W	warak	scattered
Y	yabā	love

- Exceptions to the rules of native alphabet are formal names like Juan Dela Cruz and placenames such as Laguna, Cebu and Manila. Those names must retain their official and simplified spelling instead of their native spellings Huwan Delā Krus, Lagūna, Sebū and Manīla. With the exception of names and places, all words in the native alphabet must be written with their respective spellings with their designated diacritics.

## Simplified

The **Rinconada Simplified** alphabet is just the same as the Philippine alphabet. It has 28 letters:

Majuscule Forms (also called <b>uppercase</b> or <b>capital letters</b> )																											
<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>J</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Ñ</u>	<u>Ng</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>Q</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>U</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Z</u>
Minuscule Forms (also called <b>lowercase</b> or <b>small letters</b> )																											
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	ñ	ng	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z

The letters F, V and Z are included because they are native to other Philippine languages like *Itawis* and *Ibanag*. Letters C, Ñ, and Q are also included, but their usages are limited to foreign names, Filipinized words of foreign origins or loans, especially from Spanish, English and Arabic.

The simplified alphabet doesn't use diacritics like the macron (̄) for stressed and long vowels, the circumflex (̂) for glottal stop, or the letters for velar nasal (ŋ), schwa (ə), or velar fricative (ʁ), as they don't appear on a standard "qwerty" keyboard. The velar nasal (ŋ) is replaced by the digraph (ng), and the two latter sounds can be replaced by (o) and (h), (w), and (y) respectively. But even with the absence of diacritics in the modern and simplified alphabet, pronunciations in the spoken language are not altered. Moreover, the long vowel sound in a word should not be omitted. One good example of this is "b̄ə̄ət" (kind) and "b̄ə̄ət" (want/like). The word **b̄ə̄ət** in the native alphabet is written as **bəət** in the simplified alphabet making the two words the same in spelling albeit with different meanings. In this case, the pronunciation of the words depends on their place and usage in a sentence. To avoid confusion and aid in ease of reading, it is strongly recommended to use the native alphabet in writing Rinconada Bikol.

## Numerals

Numbers and words (in native alphabet) are as follow:



0	pōlō																
1	əsad	11	samsad	21	darwamsad	31	tolomsad	41	pamsad	51	limamsad	61	nəmsad	71	pitomsad	81	walomsad
2	darwā	12	samdarwā	22	darwamdarwā	32	tolomdarwā	42	pamdarwā	52	limamdarwā	62	nəmdarwā	72	pitomdarwā	82	walomdarw
3	tolō	13	samtolō	23	darwamtolō	33	tolomtōlō	43	pamtolō	53	limamtolō	63	nəmtolō	73	pitomtōlō	83	walomtōlō
4	əpat	14	sampat	24	darwampat	34	tolompat	44	pampat	54	limampat	64	nəmpat	74	pitompat	84	walompat
5	limā	15	samlimā	25	darwamlimā	35	tolomlimā	45	pamlimā	55	limamlimā	65	nəmlimā	75	pitomlimā	85	walomlimā
6	ənəm	16	samnəm	26	darwamnəm	36	tolomnəm	46	pamnəm	56	limamnəm	66	nəmnəm	76	pitomnəm	86	walomnəm
7	pitō	17	sampitō	27	darwampitō	37	tolompitō	47	pampitō	57	limampitō	67	nəmpitō	77	pitompitō	87	walompitō
8	walō	18	samwalō	28	darwamwalō	38	tolomwalō	48	pamwalō	58	limamwalō	68	nəmwālō	78	pitomwalō	88	walomwalō
9	siyam	19	samsiyam	29	darwamsiyam	39	tolomsiyam	49	pamsiyam	59	limamsiyam	69	nəmsiyam	79	pitomsiyam	89	walomsiyam
10	sampōlō	20	darwampōlō	30	tolompōlō	40	pampōlō	50	limampōlō	60	nəmpōlō	70	pitompōlō	80	walompōlō	90	yampōlō

There are no written records to indicate that Rinconada has native words for two-digit numbers (11 - 99). On the other hand, there is also no proof that the language has no indigenous words for those numbers. It is intriguing that Rinconada has native words for three-digit numbers (e.g. "sanggatos" for 100) but not for two digit numbers. Utilization and adaptation of foreign terminologies during the three hundred and thirty three (333) years of Spanish colonization could be one of the reasons why the native terminologies may not have been passed to the new generations. Noting that an established language needs a complete numbering system in words, thus the reconstruction of words for 11 to 99 is necessary but needs to follow and retain the indigenous or original structural form of Rinconada's orthography.

## Structure

The number words of 1 to 10 and 100 are all native Rinconada while numbers 11 to 99 are all reconstructed. However, the reconstructed numbers are based on the original structure. **Sampōlō** (number ten) or sampu in Filipino is the only two-digit number that has a native word with a perfect indigenous structural form. The evolution of the word "sampōlō" from "əsadnapōlō" follows the orthography of Rinconada and developed naturally over the years. Being said, it is imperative that all reconstructed numbers must follow the same format of number 10.

The word sampōlō is derived from a portmanteau of the words əsad + na + pōlō (əsadnapōlō) which is the based tenth of one. In the evolution of this number, the schwa letter ⟨ə⟩ of ⟨əsadnapōlō⟩ became silent and so the word became "sadnapōlō". Same with other Philippine languages, /na/ is converted into /ŋ/, replaces the last consonant letter of the first word (which is /d/) and become the connector to the second word (which is pōlō) - thus, the letter /d/ is omitted and the word became "saŋ". The connector /ŋ/ becomes /m/ naturally if the next letter is /p/ or /b/ (which is also the case in other Philippine languages). So then, the word became **sampōlō**.

### Structure of sampōlō (10):

1. əsad + na + pōlō = əsadnapōlō
2. əsadnapōlō - /ə/ = sadnapōlō
3. sadnapōlō - /d/ = sanapōlō
4. /na/ replaced by /ŋ/ = saŋpōlō
5. /ŋ/ replaced by /m/ before /p/ = sampōlō.

From sampōlō, all two-digit numbers were given a name that was copied from it. The number 40 (pampōlō) and 60 (nəmpōlō) follow the same exact format of sampōlō. The exception to the naming system of numbers is the number zero (0). Though zero (0) is single digit, there is no native word for it. Since sampōlō (10) is a combination of 1 and 0, the word pōlō was taken out from it to represent zero (0) rather than using "sīro" or "sēro". As a result, Rinconada has a complete basic set of numbers without using foreign words.

The number referenced in Php 356,817,142,590 can be translated into Rinconada Bikol as:

**"Tolōngatos limamnəm na bilyon, walōngatos sampitōŋ milyon, saŋgatos pamdarwaŋ rībo ag limangatos yampōlōŋ pīso."**

In ENGLISH language it is:

**"Three hundred fifty six billion, eight hundred seventeen million, one-hundred forty two thousand and five hundred ninety pesos."**

In FILIPINO language it is:

**"Tatlong daan limampu't anim na bilyon, walong daan at labing pitong milyon, sandaan at apatnapu't dalawang libo at limang raan siyamnapung piso."**

- Rinconada numbers in words are very simple in structure. Translations are shorter than both Filipino and English languages.

## Comparison chart

Decimal Numbers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>PAN, circa 4000 BC</b>	*isa	*DuSa	*telu	*Sepat	*lima	*enem	*pitu	*walu	*Siwa	*puluq
<b>Tagalog</b>	isá	dalawá	tatló	ápat	limá	ánim	pitó	waló	siyám	sampu
<b>Cebuano</b>	usá	duhá	tuló	upat	limá	unom	pitó	waló	siyám	napulu
<b>Rinconada</b>	əsad	darwā	tolō	əpat	limā	ənəm	pitō	walō	siyam	sampōlō
<b>Chamorro</b>	maisa/hãcha	hugua	tulu	fatfat	lima	gunum	fiti	guãlu	sigua	mãnot/fulu
<b>Malay</b>	satu	dua	tiga	empat	lima	enam	tujuh	lapan	sembilan	sepuluh
<b>Javanese</b>	siji	loro	telu	papat	limo	nem	pitu	wolu	songo	sepuluh
<b>Tongan</b>	taha	ua	tolu	fā	nima	ono	fitu	valu	hiva	-fulu
<b>Samoan</b>	tasi	lua	tolu	fā	lima	ono	fitu	valu	iva	sefulu
<b>Māori</b>	tahi	rua	toru	whā	rima	ono	whitu	waru	iwa	tekau (archaic: ngahuru)
<b>Marquesan</b>	e tahi	e 'ua	e to'u	e fa	e 'ima	e ono	e fitu	e va'u	e iva	'onohu'u

## Intelligibility

Although properly considered separate languages, speakers of Rinconada Bikol or Rinconada can communicate with Albay Bikol speakers with ease and without code switching. A student from Ligao City (West Miraya speaker) studying in a university in Iriga City can understand Rinconada (any variant) and can be understood by Rinconada speakers as well. The same thing will happen if a local tourist from Rinconada visits the Cagsawa Ruins in Albay or visits Donsol, Sorsogon (East Miraya speaker) for the annual whale shark sightings. The difference between Rinconada and Albay Bikol (both are included in Inland Bikol group) is comparable to German and Yiddish or Portuguese and Galician, while the differences between variants are comparable to those between English US, English British and English Australian. The mutual intelligibility of Rinconada and Albay Bikol is 80% to 85%, while intelligibility between variants is 95% to 98%.

## Status

Rinconada Bikol is a minority language in the Bicol region despite having hundreds of thousands of speakers. It is currently not used in commercial media (print, radio, television) despite the fact that there are numerous prominent Rinconada speakers in the music and entertainment industry, media, and Philippine politics. It is not among the recognized regional languages in the Philippines and remains unknown to many Filipinos as it is poorly documented, researched and promoted.

Currently, the major obstacle to the diffusion of the usage and teaching of Rinconada is the lack of written material in Rinconada Bikol language, namely books, newspapers, software, magazines, etc. Thus, Rinconada, along with other Inland Bikol languages and the minor indigenous languages of Bicol region, remains essentially a spoken language.

Due to everyday exposure of younger generations to Filipino/Tagalog and English languages in mass media and social networking sites, native words that are rarely used are now disappearing and being replaced by their counterparts from other languages. If cannot be salvaged by any means, this trend is more likely to continue and might endanger the language in the near future.

## Publication

The only dictionary written for this language is *Rinconada: Bikol-Filipino-English Phrasebook: with Mini-dictionary* (2001) of Jason Lobel and Grace Bucad of Nabua, Camarines Sur. Several books were successfully created and published by native speakers and non-speakers alike. Some were published by Frank Peñones, Jason Chancoco, Rizaldy Manrique, Jonher Cañeba and Kristian Cordero of Iriga City. In 2004, the *Ragang Rinaranga: mga rawitdawit* which was published by Frank Peñones is the first anthology written in Rinconada Bikol.

On June 25, 2013, The Camarines Sur Polytechnic Colleges (CSPC), a state college in Nabua, Camarines Sur, established the *Center for Rinconada Studies* that will serve as the research center for Rinconada Bikol language and heritage.<sup>[6]</sup>

## Modern culture

In Bicol region, the language and its speakers earned the moniker: *Pa-sādi pa-san, pa-sīni pa-sīton*, that literally means 'will go here will go there, will go here will go there' (two different Rinconada words with the same meaning, which is a form of humor if said repeatedly). The moniker is the result of the prominence of Rinconada speakers in the region. This is due to the fact that a native speaker travelling in the region can easily be distinguished and identified because his language is different from the vast majority of Bicolanos, and to the fact that several prominent Bicolanos in the Philippines are of Rinconada heritage, gives the language and the speakers a "familiarity" to others. That makes one throwing a humorous line (the moniker) to a person telling him that he is a Rinconada speaker.

## Notable speakers

### ▪ Baao variant

Joker Arroyo (*Philippine senator*)

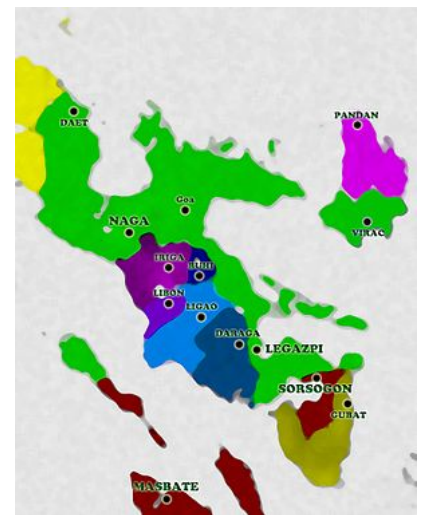
Jorge Barlin (*The first Filipino Catholic bishop*)<sup>[7]</sup>

Beatriz "Bea" Saw (*Pinoy Big Brother Season 2 winner*)

Luis G. Dato (*Bikolano Poet and Writer*)<sup>[8]</sup>

Paolo Briones (*Longest term of mayorship in the Philippines*)<sup>[9]</sup>

Manuel Gaité (*Securities and Exchange Commission commissioner, former Deputy Executive Secretary-Presidential Management Staff*)



Coverage of Rinconada Bikol language (purple)

Coverage of Albay Bikol languages:

Buhinon Bikol (dark blue)

Libon Bikol (violet)

West Miraya Bikol (light blue)

East Miraya Bikol (blue-gray)

- **Bato variant**

Venus Raj (*Miss Universe 2010 4th runner-up, actress & model*)

- **Bula-Pili variant**

Jericho Rosales (*Filipino actor, model and band vocalist*)<sup>[10]</sup>

- **Nabua-Balatan variant**

Sofia Moran, real name is Sofia Ballon (*Filipina actress & model*)<sup>[11]</sup>

- **Iriga variant**

Nora Aunor, real name is Nora Cabalera Villamayor (*Multi-awarded International Filipina actress, singer, producer, recording artist, & product endorser*)<sup>[12]</sup>

Mila Ocampo, real name is Milagros Sumayao (*Filipina actress [mother of Snooky Serna], first Miss Philippines Press Photography 1959*)

Lou Bonnevie, real name is Maria Lourdes Rosario Perello Bonnevie (*Filipina pop rock musician*)

Victor Wood (*Singer, musician & composer*)<sup>[13]</sup>

Jaime Fabregas (*Filipino veteran actor and musical scorer*)

Gilda Gales (*Filipina actress*)<sup>[14]</sup>

Ronald Remy, real name is Ronald Kookooritchkin (*Filipino actor and producer of the 1960s. Son of Russian emigre' Eremes Kookooritchkin and Conchita Segovia*)<sup>[15]</sup>

Eddie Villamayor, brother of Nora Aunor (*Filipino actor and producer*)

Rez Cortez (*Filipino actor*)

Zaldy Zhornack, real name is José Rizaldy Zshornack (*Filipino actor of Polish descent*)<sup>[16]</sup>

Eddie Ilarde (*Former assemblyman, senator and congressman of the Philippines*)

Emilia Boncodin (*Former secretary of the Philippine Department of Budget and Management. One of the Ten Outstanding Women in Nation's Service (TOWNS)*)

Leila De Lima (*Philippine senator*)

Lilia De Lima (*Director General, Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), undersecretary, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). One of the Ten Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service (TOWNS)*)<sup>[17]</sup>

Julia Gonowon (*The First Miss Millennial which was broadcast in Eat Bulaga*)

Jonathan Malaya (*Assistant Secretary for Special Projects of the Department of Education*)

Efren Orbon (*Major General; the former commanding general of the 2nd Infantry Division, Philippine Army*)

Raul Nagrampa (*Philippine NPO Deputy Director*)

Juan K. Taduran (*Filipino gold medalist in Decathlon in the then Far East Championship, 1921, 1923 & 1925*)<sup>[18]</sup>

Genaro Saavedra (*Filipino gold medalist in 100 Yards, High Jump, Pole Vault and Decathlon in the Far East Championships, 1915*)<sup>[18]</sup>

Tshomlee Go (*Taekwondo Jin, Olympian; Taekwondo World Cup Championship Silver medalist; 2005 SEA Games Gold medalist*)

Ruben Ciron (*Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP)*)<sup>[19]</sup>

McKing Alanis (*Community Liaison and Special Assistant for Military and Veteran Affairs in California, USA. Outstanding Filipinos Abroad awardees*)<sup>[20]</sup>

Dominic Almelor (*ABS-CBN reporter*)

Dianne Necio, from Polangui, Albay (*Top 15 Miss International 2011*)<sup>[21]</sup>

Angeline Tucio (*1st Runner-up Mutya ng Pilipinas 2003*)

## Distribution

Rinconada is spoken by majority in Bula, Baao, Nabua, Balatan, Iriga and Bato in Camarines Sur (politically the 5th district of Camarines Sur province except the municipality of Buhi, where the majority speaks Buhinon). The language is dominant and the lingua franca in the southern half of the provincial capital town of Pili, the west barangays of Ocampo, and the far west barangays of Buhi; it can also be heard in neighboring places such as the northern barangays of Polangui and Libon in Albay.

Figure:

Town/City	Population	Percentage
Baao, Cam. Sur	54,971	100%
Balatan, Cam. Sur	28,699	100% (25% of the population is bilingual with Coastal Bikol)
Bato, Cam. Sur	48,306	100%
Buhi, Cam. Sur	24,603	1/3 of the population
Bula, Cam. Sur	68,011	100%
Iriga City	105,919	100%
Nabua, Cam. Sur	80,111	100%
Pili, Cam. Sur	41,153	(half of the population)
Polangui, Albay	27,435	(1/3 of the population)
<b>Total</b>	<b>479,208</b>	

Based from the population of towns and city with a concentration of Rinconada Bikol speakers, the total number is 479,208 or almost half a million. This number is based from the population of the fifth district of Camarines Sur (Rinconada) and neighboring towns of Polangui and Pili, in which, Rinconada Bikol is their de facto daily language. Moreover, the total number does not include speakers outside Rinconada area. Some linguists place the native speaker population at 600,000 (estimate) because there are many speakers of this language outside the region who left in search for better job opportunities. Example of this are the Filipinos enlisted in US Navy that comes from Nabua, Camarines Sur which comprised the 10% of all Filipino US Servicemen. Most of these Rinconada speakers are now residing mostly in San Diego, California.<sup>[22]</sup>

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